



**Updated July 3, 2019**

Ongoing conflict in the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has driven refugees—many of whom continue to face acute food insecurity—to seek shelter and assistance in Zambia.

## SITUATION

- Conflict and insecurity in the DRC contributed to a sudden influx of Congolese refugees into Zambia in 2017. Approximately 43,000 Congolese refugees were sheltering in Zambia as of May, including approximately 27,400 refugees who arrived between January 2017 and April 2019, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- Many Congolese refugees traveled long distances to reach Zambia, arriving in the country in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Once in Zambia, the majority of Congolese refugees are sheltering in camps and transit centers in Zambia's northern Luapula Province. Refugees in Luapula lack access to livelihood opportunities, markets, and arable land for farming, making it difficult for vulnerable households to buy or grow enough food.



## RESPONSE

- In FY 2018, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) partnered with the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide locally and regionally procured emergency food assistance to approximately 15,500 refugees sheltering in Luapula's Mantapala refugee camp.
- Nearly 90 percent of FFP's contribution to WFP supported the procurement of food directly from **Zambian communities near Mantapala**. Purchasing food products in the areas hosting refugees supported local **Zambian farmers**, bolstered local markets, and increased the speed of food assistance delivery.

“My life started changing when I first got food from WFP. It gave me hope and my grandchildren some peace. I knew then that life would get better.”

–Jackie Kisimba, a Congolese refugee living in Zambia, on FFP-funded WFP food assistance

## FOOD FOR PEACE CONTRIBUTIONS

### TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PER FISCAL YEAR (FY)

	U.S. DOLLARS	METRIC TONS*
FY 2019	—	—
FY 2018	\$610,000	804 MT

*\*Metric tonnage does not reflect funding for vouchers or cash transfers*



**Photo:** Jackie, a Congolese refugee living in Zambia's Luapula Province, displays a biometric registration card that gives her and her grandchildren access to emergency food assistance, including maize meal, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar, and iodized salt.